

February 22, 2016

The Honorable Andrew Cuomo
Governor of the State of New York
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Re: Funding Cuts for Marine Patrols

Dear Governor Cuomo:

While I am aware that in many cases the needs and desires of many outspend that of our States budgeting capabilities, your proposed cut of \$900,000 from the centers for the Marine Patrols is not prudent in today's environment.

The Marine Patrols, especially on Long Island and more specifically in Nassau County, are already at an all-time low. There is literally one police boat on the South Shore of Nassau and one on the North Shore and those boats are not even operating on a regular basis. In each town, the bay constables augment the police patrols. There are approximately 100,000 boats registered on Long Island alone that traverse the water ways in addition to those that travel in from Connecticut and Canada.

As you are aware, Long Island is known for its waterways and the Long Island waterways are busier than ever with commercial fishermen and clambers as well as recreational boating and water craft. I know for a fact that on any given day our marine patrols and bay constables are out enforcing the navigation laws, fishing and clamming laws, assisting disabled boaters and conducting rescue and scuba operations. In addition, they also handle accidents and enforce the BWI laws as well as intercept drug runners.

The borders of our water are massive and take time to adequately patrol. I believe that the \$900,000 is needed to subsidize these operations which are extremely necessary and worthwhile especially considering the size of the total budget itself.

I believe that allowing these proposed cuts to go into effect is short sighted. Preventing our waterways and marinas from being safely enjoyed by our residents and visitors will surely result in a negative impact on our local and regional economy.

It is my sincere hope that you reconsider your proposal to cut \$900,000 from this very necessary and important program.

Should you have any questions or need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very Truly Yours,



Michael A. Montesano
Member of Assembly
15th District